

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 NRC-05 MC-02

ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 /120 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8371

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 19465

E. O. 11652:XGDS1

TAGS: PARM, IAEA, UNGA, IN, PK, UK

SUBJECT: SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (SANWFZ)
RESOLUTION

REF: (A) STATE 291450; (B) USUN 5145

1. JOHN EDMONDS, HEAD OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE FCO, ASKED US IN DECEMBER 2 CONCERNING THE US ABSTENTION (REF A) ON THE PAKISTAN SANWFZ RESOLUTION. THE ESSENCE OF THE BRITISH PRESENTATION WAS CURIOSITY ABOUT THE REASONS FOR OUR ABSTENTION AND HOPE THAT THE US MIGHT VOTE FOR THE PAKISTAN INITIATIVE IN PLENARY.

2. THE BRITISH BELIEVE THE PAKISTAN RESOLUTION SHOULD BE SUPPORTED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) THE UK SUPPORTS THE AIM OF THE SANWFZ;
(2) PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS IN NON PROLIFERATION, WHICH COINCIDE WITH WESTERN INTEREST, SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED;

(3) THERE IS AT PRESENT ONLY ONE RESOLUTION ON
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THE TABLE AND THEREFORE THERE IS NO QUESTION OF EVEN-

HANDEDNESS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN;

(4) THE UK HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE SUBSTANCE
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION NOR DOES AS FAR AS IT IS AWARE
ANY OTHER WESTERN DELEGATION;

(5) WESTERN ABSTENTIONS WILL BE ATTRIBUTED
TO INDIA PRESSURE AND WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY WEAKEN WESTERN
ABILITY TO STEER THE PAKISTANIS TOWARD MORE RESPONSIBLE
NUCLEAR POLICIES, AND

(6) INDIA HAS TWICE PUT FORWARD RESOLUTIONS
ADVOCATING A SANWFZ AND DID NOT VOTE AGAINST THE
PAKISTAN RESOLUTION LAST YEAR.

3. WITH THIS ARGUMENTATION IN MIND, THE BRITISH ARE
DISAPPOINTED AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR US ABSTENTION.
ACCORDING TO EDMONDS, HAD THE US VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION
THE UK, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS, IRELAND, AUSTRALIA, NEW
ZEALAND, AND PROBABLY JAPAN AND PORTUGAL WOULD HAVE
FOLLOWED IN LINE.

4. PUT SIMPLY, HMG BELIEVES THAT ON MERITS, THE
PAKISTAN RESOLUTION SHOULD BE SUPPORTED EVEN IN THE FACE
OF INDIA OPPOSITION. THEREFORE, THE BRITISH ASK THAT
WE CONSIDER REVERSING OUR ABSTENTION IN COMMITTEE AND
VOTING YES IN PLENARY. IF WASHINGTON TAKES THAT COURSE,
THE UK WILL CERTAINLY FOLLOW. EVEN IF THE US REPEATS
ITS ABSTENTION, THE FCO WILL PROBABLY RECOMMEND TO
MINISTERS THAT THE UK SWITCH ITS VOTE TO AFFIRMATIVE.

5. WE ARE IN NO POSITION HERE TO JUDGE THE MERITS OF
THE ARGUMENT. WE DO KNOW HMG WISHES TO COORDINATE
CLOSELY WITH THE US. THUS, WE HOPE THAT WASHINGTON
WILL RESPOND RAPIDLY AND IN DETAIL TO THE UK CONCERNS
EXPRESSED ABOVE WHATEVER DECISION IS MADE CONCERNING
THE PLENARY VOTE. WE DETECT SOME BRITISH FRUSTRATION,
AS ALWAYS ELEGANTLY CONVEYED, ABOUT WHAT THEY SEE AS A
MURKY US EXPLANATION FOR THIS PARTICULAR ABSTENTION.

ARMSTRONG

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